

New Forest Mercury Vapour Light Records for 1973

By L. W. SIGGS

(Sungate, Football Green, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.)

After the disappointment of the last two years, the better summer weather of 1973 brought a notable increase in at least some of the macrolepidoptera. The following figures may be compared with my Report for 1972 and earlier years (*Ent. Rec.* 84: 92).

	Nights	Specimens		Species
		Total	Average	Average
March	24	1023	48	7
April	29	2490	86	8
May	31	875	28	12
June	29	3633	125	36
July	30	11152	372	49
August	31	13264	428	42
September	27	3164	116	16
October	29	814	28	9
November	11	277	25	6

The improvement did not occur until July and August with a record average catch in both those months. The total number of species recorded during the year was 333.

Those species which turned up in numbers which were substantially higher than in previous years are detailed below, showing in brackets the previous best since 1961.

Noctua pronuba L. 9607 (4168)

Noctua (Euschesis) comes Hubn. 315 (220)

Noctua (Euschesis) janthina Schiff. 1074 (505)

Noctua (Euschesis) interjecta Hubn. 163 (76)

Xestia (Amathes) xanthographa Schiff. 447 (357)

Xestia (Amathes) sexstrigata Haw. 242 (148)

Xestia (Amathes) triangulum Hufn. 208 (178)

Diarsia brunnea Schiff. 126 (103)

Bena prasinana L. 58 (43)

Lycophotia porphyrea Schiff. (*varia* Vill.) 2628 (1276)

Habrosyne pyritoides Hufn. 601 (312)

Paradiarsia (Amathes) glareosa Esp. 55 (37)

Omphaloscelis lunosa Haw. 121 (41)

Agrochola (Anchoscelis) helvola L. 175 (152)

Autographa (Plusia) gamma L. 1323 (975)

Cyclophora (Cosymbia) linearia Hubn. 70 (13)

Eupithecia nanata Hubn. 172 (142)

It is interesting to note that four species of the genus *Noctua* are included, three of them (*pronuba*, *janthina* and *interjecta*) more than doubling the previous record.

There were three additions to the Minstead list:—

Scotopteryx (Ortholitha) chenopodiata L.

Hyles (Celerio) gallii Rott. (see *Ent. Rec.* 85: 225)

Autographa (Plusia) bractea L. (see ditto.)

(Correction:—The addition in the 1972 list (*Ent. Rec.* 84: 93) shown as *Perizoma didymata* L. should read *Perizoma bifaciata* Haw.

The following species, which are not common here, were recorded:—*Xylena vetusta* Hubn., *Anaplectoides prasina* Schiff., *Hypena crassalis* Fab. (*Bomolocha fontis* Thunb.), *Idaea (Sterrha) seriata* Schranck, *Arenostola phragmitidis* Hubn., *Euxoa nigricans* L. *Mesoligia (Procus) literosa* Haw., *Mesoleuca albicillata* L. (a small, somewhat worn specimen with no border to the hindwings), *Aporophyla lutulenta* Schiff., *Chesias legatella* Schiff.

MIGRANTS. After three poor years for migrants, 1973 saw a great improvement. The following were recorded:—

Autographa (Plusia) gamma L. (1323) including a melanic variety, ab. *nigricans* Spuler.

Plutella xylostella L. (*maculipennis* Curt.) (21)

Peridroma saucia Hubn. (*porphyrea* Edelsten) (36)

Agrotis ipsilon Hufn. (97)

Herse convolvuli L. (1)

Rhodometra sacraria L. (4)

Nomophila noctuella Schiff. (10)

Orthonama (Nycterosea) obstipata Fab. (3)

Hyles (Celerio) gallii Rott. (1) (see above)

Lithosia quadra L. (7)

Udea ferrugalis Hubn. (1)

Perhaps *Autographa (Plusia) bractea* L. (1) was a migrant.

POLYMORPHISM

Biston betularia L.

typical 130 (86%)

carbonaria 10 (7%)

insularia 11 (7%)

Idaea (Sterrha) aversata L.

remutata 89 (65%)

aversata 47 (35%)

Xanthorhoe ferrugata (Clerck). One specimen of the red form, the first I have seen in the 1400 specimens recorded over the years.

Apamea crenata Hufn. typical 7, ab. *alpecurus* Esp. 4, ab. *combusta* Hubn. 11.

Alcis repandata L. typical 70, ab. *consonaria* Hubn. 2.

Eilema deplana Esp. typical 10, ab. *unicolor* 9.

Eilema griseola Hubn. typical 7, ab. *flava* Haw. 3.

Semiothisa liturata Clerck typical 22, ab. *nigrofulvata* 1.

A Plea for Hardwoods

By J. P. SANKEY-BARKER

(Plas Llangattock, Crickhowell, Breconshire)

Postwar development has wrought many changes in our landscape — mostly for the worse. One of the more regret-